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Muriel Ammonia Linn.

George Green

admitted March 11th 1820

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Murias Ammonia et Ferri

The disorder which I shall first notice has by Cullen been termed *Dienteria*; the neglect of authors in treating of the description and cure of this disease, to whose power so many of our fellow mortals fall victims, lingering out a miserable existence, while there is a possibility of relief is truly surprising, whether they consider the unfrequency of the disorder or the mildness of its aspect as offering sufficient excuse for their cursory manner of treating it; I know not, but this I know; he who expects to cure a confirmed *Dientery* with the ordinary remedies for *Diarrhoea*, will be exceedingly disappointed. Doctor Cullen in his nosological arrangement has placed it in the Order *Spasmi* and Genus *Diarrhoea*; as it is truly a species of *Diarrhoea* it appears necessary to make a few observations on the order in general, in the first place shall take the liberty of advancing a few positions

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1st In all cases where there is a preter-natural number of stools, the peristaltic motion is likewise increased in equal ratio.

2^d A Diarrhoea which has existed for a length of time, debilitates the alimentary canal, as well as the whole system, thereby increasing their irritability.

"Upon the same ground says Cullen as I consider the disease named Dysentery to be an increased peristaltic motion over the whole of the intestinal canal, arising from a peculiar irritability, I have considered it as merely a species of Diarrhoea. The idea of a laxity of the intestinal canal being the cause, either of Dysentery or other species of Diarrhoea, appears to me to be without foundation, except in the single case of frequent liquid stools from a palsy of the Sphincter Ani?" Unless there was

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I cannot even conceive, a reason why a "Paralysis of the
Sphincter Anus" should produce "Frequent Liquido
Stools" and consequently shall not enlarge on that
subject.

Now in attempting to ascertain the cause of the
disease, we must endeavour to expose the cause of
the increased peristaltic motion, wherein we
shall find the remote cause; the increase of the
peristaltic motion constituting the proximate.
I shall refer the several causes of the increased
action in the intestines to three general heads.

1st The application of cold to the surface
of the body.

2^d From the sympathy existing between the
intestines and the whole system, or from their
relation to certain diseased parts, their action
may be increased without a transfer of any
diseased matter, from a primary diseased
part to them.

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3. The direct application of various kinds of stimuli to the intestines themselves.

Doctor Rush was in the habit in obstinate cases of constipation, of dashing cold water over his patient with complete success.

That affections of other parts of the system may affect the intestines, without transference or the application of any stimulant matter to them, we learn from the effect of Pregnancy in producing Salivation, Nausea, Spasms &c. the Diarrhoea and Convulsions of children, depending upon Teething and Worms, and the effects upon the Bowels of suppressed Perspiration; Raptions of the mind may also excite Diarrhoea, Doctor Barton in his Lectures mentioned the case of a man who could discharge a quantity of feces at pleasure.

In referring to the late Doctor Miller on the sympathy of the stomach, I find the most plausible and satisfactory solution of the Phenomena of those Diarrhoeas, which appear in many cases

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at the onset of malignant fever. The Doctor observes that "The doctrine of the leading agency of the Stomach, in the establishment and extension of the morbid motion called febrile, satisfactorily explains the effects of emotions of the mind, and especially of terror in bringing on diseases, and imparting to them a malignant character; whatever weakens the stomach will expose it to the attack of febrile poisons, no part of the body exhibits a more intimate connexion with the mind, than that organ, no other part has its functions so immediately affected by mental emotions; as is often observed in the sudden loss of appetite, and suspension of digestion, by the arrival of joyful or afflicting intelligence."

Thus the same virus or miasma, causing the fever, may also by destroying the tone of the stomach, thence communicating the impulse to the intestines, excite Diarrhoeas, and hence will the Diarrhoea begin through derangement

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of the stomach; the peristaltic motion being increased by the stimulus of the miasma, will subsequently be continued, by the increased irritability of the intestines, which is caused by debility of the alimentary canal, as stated in our second position.

The consequence of the close connexion of the stomach, with the system at large, and particularly the intestinal canal, is often pernicious in the season of malignant epidemics. Terror is apt to start up, and assail the mind, from transient, as well as, from substantial causes; the stomach being according to Miller, the chief recipient and propagator of morbid action; especially when deprived by indigestion, or any other cause of its accustomed tone, it clearly results that passions of the mind may operate as causes of Diarrhoea. But I believe the disorder which is here more particularly to be noticed, in general consists in a chronic stage of disease, kept up by habit, and is the

The disease is generally of a
slow and insidious nature, and
is attended with a variety of
symptoms, which are not
always the same in all cases.
The most common is a
sudden and violent
pain in the
lower part of the
abdomen, which is
usually attended with
vomiting and
diarrhoea. The
vomiting is usually
of a bilious nature,
and the diarrhoea is
usually of a
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immediate effect of protracted Diarrhoea, or any other cause producing debility of the intestinal canal, which renders it unable to throw off its diseased action, and assume its wonted tone and vigour.

The Lienteria is sometimes a symptom of Dyspepsia, but it more generally follows a common Diarrhoea, it is known by a proternatural number of stools, consisting of indigested aliment, attended with no pain, before the discharge there is generally felt an over degree of distention of the abdomen, and as the disease advances pain is not an unusual symptom, with completely marked debility of a mild appearance in every part of the body, which debility, unless checked, gradually increases; while the body suffers several changes, which occur sooner or later, according to the strength of the patient, or violence of the disease; the face at this time becomes in the morning oedematous, and in the evening

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the same takes place in the feet, the Eyes and
 skin put on the appearance of jaundice, while
 there is a hectic action of the pulse; these symptoms
 slowly increase, the oedematous swellings and gel
 lateness of the skin, gradually extending themselves
 untill all the external parts of the body become
 affected, and watery collections frequently take
 place in the Abdomen, May they not also in
 the Chest

Now when all these symptoms concur,
 unless proper remedies have been used, so as to have
 checked considerably the violence of the disease,
 death must soon ensue, yet I have known
 them all combined and the patient recover. De
 bility then of the whole body, and particularly
 of the intestines, is the cause of this complaint,
 and the increased number of discharges, must
 be owing, principally, to a convulsion or spasm
 of the bowels; as I strongly suspect that no
 natural action of any muscle in the body,

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will be increased, when that muscle is in a
state of debility, (for this reason I suppose Dr
Buller has placed it in the order Spasmi.)
his being the case, it would be reasonable to in-
fer, that our remedies must be selected, from the
Tonics or Stimulents, but with all of them should
be disappointed, except the Murias Ammoniac
& Ferri which, I believe will almost uniform-
ly succeed.

Doctor S. Woodruff in a manuscript in
the possession of my brother says, "Having been
frequently called, within these six years, to ad-
minister relief to persons afflicted with Disentery,
I have used a variety of remedies from the
Tonic and Stimulant classes of medicines, but
with the Flores Martialis have I alone suc-
ceeded; while with it, and a proper regimen, I
have never yet failed." Previous to using the
medicine, it will not be necessary to adminis-
ter Cathartics in order to free the bowels from offen-

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sive matter; for it is debility, which causes almost every thing to irritate them, and that humor was removed by purging; yet we are not to rely exclusively on our medicine, the diet ought to be light and dry, particular attention must be paid to exercise, that on horse-back to be preferred, if the strength of the patient will admit, if not, other exercise must be instituted according to his strength; there are besides numerous indications presenting themselves, during the attendance, which could be impossible for me to detail here; but which an enlightened practitioner will readily discover and promptly answer.

Case 1st

187 June 16th. I visited M^{rs} M. L. who told me she had, had a lax nearly eighteen months, and during the last twelve thought the principal part of her food, passed off entirely undigested. She was so much debilitated, that it was with

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difficultly, she could walk across the room, her ap-
petite considerably impaired, pulse very weak,
but fever slight, and face considerably bloated
in the morning.

I ordered a dose of Specacantha which vom-
ited her three times, hoping in some measure to in-
sert the peristaltic motion; but without giving relief;
I then directed to use the following prescription

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digest three days: one table spoonful to be taken
every six hours, and a tea spoonful of the Tinct. Kino
morning and evening. 22^d. Called and found her
no better: I concluded to omit all the medicine she
was then taking; and give a tea spoonful of the
Tinct. Flores Mart. three times a day, mixed in
coffee. Made by toasting wheat bread brown, and
throwing it in cold water, until a strong infusion

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was made; this she was also to use for drink, and omit the use of every other liquid. She was also forbidden the use of any food, except toasted bread with a small quantity of Butter, sugar and onions if liked; 27th found her mending slowly; and continued to do so, untill the 6 of September, during which time she used the Tinct. Floris Mart. except while menses stung, when it was omitted and a small quantity of the Bitters used. Her Menses were regular but small in quantity, while taking the Bitters and Wine, but when the Muriate of Ammonia and Hon was given, they were much more profuse, but still regular. At this time the forces having changed to a natural appearance, with a stool or two in twenty four hours, more than when in a state of health, I directed her to use in place of the Tincture twenty drops of Sassafras morning and evening, and before eating each meal a table spoonful of Rhus Toxic. of Barts. by which means in a few days, the disease was entirely removed, and since its removal

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Case 2^d.

3^d of May 1818 I visited L. H. who had been afflicted with a mild Sientery for the space of two years, most of which time he was able to attend to business, untill within three weeks, when he called on a pretentious physician, whom chance had thrown in his way, who after puking began immediately to purge him, (I believe with Calomel & Elix.) which soon reduced him to the following situation. He told me, although rendered very weak by this evacuation, he was still able to brand about; his face had become slightly ^{swollen} a few weeks before using the puke &c. which was still increasing rapidly, his feet and legs had become oedematous, and for two weeks past had in a great measure lost his appetite, his evacuations by stool were much more frequent than before he took the physic, and his strength hardly sufficient to enable him to get up out of the bed & diminishing daily. I immediately directed him

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to use the Tinct. Floris Mart. and the same diet as directed in the preceding case.

In the course of ten or twelve days he began to mend gradually, and continued to do so untill a fortnight had elapsed, when he ate heartily of Chan soup for dinner and thickened milk for supper, which was followed, the next day, by an increase of all the symptoms which continued for several days; during this time the quantity of drops was increased to four tea spoonful a day. Shortly after he recovered from the bad effects of the Chan soup &c - his stools put on a natural appearance; the bitters were used as in the foregoing case and continued untill the latter part of June when he entirely recovered from the Dienteria and has since been free from disease.

He also used about $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}$ ss belonice daily untill the yellowness of the skin was removed, which was effected about the same time the Sx disappeared.

I trust there has already been sufficient said

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under this head, to turn the attention of those practitioners, who are in an eminent degree, better calculated than myself, to note the phenomena of disorders, and observe the effect of medicines, to the medicine here spoken of, though hitherto little known and the disease above noticed, but heretofore almost entirely neglected.

I am now to speak of a set of diseases which at first view appear very dissimilar, to the one above mentioned, but which require very nearly the same treatment, and depend perhaps upon the same cause, viz. debility. I shall first notice Chlorosis, which commences with sluggishness and a frequent sense of lassitude, and debility together with various symptoms of dyspepsia, the appetite being bad or fanciful, often requires substances not alimentary, the face losing its healthy appearance assumes a sallow hue, even verging upon green the mucous secretions are defective, and in consequence the feculent discharges are impeded,

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the nose is dry, the lips lose their colour, the eyes are encircled with a livid areola, and the whole body becoming flaccid, puts on a leucophlyma^{at} appearance, the feet and perhaps also a great part of the body, become affected with oedematous swellings, indicating a want of power and energy of constitution, slight exertion producing anxious and hurried respirations, the sleep disturbed, the voluntary muscles convulsed, the urine pale, and the mind whimsical, the pulse is small, low, and quick. Consumption or Palsey seems to be fast approaching, and the patient appears to be hastening to the dark and narrow House, so that the animal functions are in a great measure suspended and the vital ones very feebly carried on.

Cullen after describing the disorder says, "These symptoms manifestly show a considerable laxity and flaccidity of the whole system, and therefore give reason to conclude, that the retention of the

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muscles accompanying them is owing to a weaker action of the vessels of the uterus, which therefore do not impel the blood into their extremities with a sufficient force to open these, and pour out blood by them."

Now the principal indication of cure is evidently, to restore the tone of the system; of all the medicines in our possession, I suspect the Martial Flowers, will the most speedily, and with the least difficulty effect this end; given between the intervals of the menstrual efforts, and intermitted with the Polygala Senega and other Emmenagogues "Pro re nata" at the time Nature appears to be making her efforts to effect a cure; I suspect I may almost recommend it as a specific in this disorder; at any rate as nearly fulfilling the idea communicated by that word, as any medicine in the bounds of the Materia Medica, except indeed Mercury in true Syphilis, than which no medicine can have a better claim.

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Case 1st

E. D. aged 18 years had been for eighteen months or two years, afflicted with pains in the head, back and limbs, at irregular intervals; slight attacks of fever lasting two or three days, dimness of the head, swelling of the feet &c. I saw her on the 10th of April 1818 and gave an emetic, which operated well, as she had used the colic bath the summer before; I immediately put her under a course of Tonics, of which the Carbonate of Iron constituted a principal part, and directed her to use exercise freely; this was continued for the space of six weeks, without any evident good effect; and was abandoned; I then ordered her to commence with the Bark and Wine, her feet to be put into warm water on going to bed; and to take a decoction of the Tolyz. Seneg. for a few days when the pains, fever &c. indicated that Nature was making her effort towards a cure, this treatment was continued about 2 months, when, not producing

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any good effect, it was likewise omitted. Reflecting on the astonishing effect I had witnessed from the Martial Flowers in Sicily, and concluding they both depended upon the same cause viz. debility, I determined to make a trial of it and gave her a tea spoonful of the Tincture three times a day, with directions for her to use exercise freely as before and sleep on a hard bed, - In the course of three weeks I could perceive her a little better, but no appearance of the menses, although she had had a turn of the pinks. thinking this dose not large enough I directed four tea spoonful to be used daily, and the quantity to be increased every two weeks one tea spoonful; to continue the exercise &c. The consequence was a slight appearance of the menses in about one month, at the end of the second month the flux was completely established.

Case 2^d.

I To aged about 19 had a retention of the

* I learned from the Physicians who had attended her, that the usual remedies had been administered, and persevered in, a considerable length of time, without success. Tonics in particular, such as the barb. Ferri. Cort Peruv. &c. &c. -

menses. on the 3^d July 1818 I was called upon to
 visit her, and found her with the usual symptoms
 attending this disorder, slight pains in the head,
 joints, back and haunches, at about monthly
 intervals: having just had a turn of the pains of
 which I have spoken, I directed her to use mod-
 erate exercise on Horse-back, to sleep either on
 a Mattress or straw bed, and to take a large
 tea spoonful of the Tinct. Flores Mart. three times
 a day until I saw her again; it being a consid-
 erable distance from where I resided. I did not
 see her again until the 26th of the same month
 her general health seemed somewhat better,
 and expected another turn of the pains &c in
 a day or two, she was directed to continue exer-
 cise and hard bed; to omit the Tincture, until
 all symptoms of pain &c were gone, then to re-
 sume it, to take ʒij of Polyg. Seneg: a day in form
 of decoction, for three days, and to bathe the feet
 in warm water every night on going to bed, while

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using the Senega. 29th of August found she had had a slight appearance of the Menaea. her general health considerably better, the Polyg. Seneg. and warm bath were again recommended and the Tincture suspended as before, exercise &c. continued. On the 1st September saw her again, and found her general health quite good. The menses had appeared in a much larger quantity than before, recommended the continuance of the Tincture, exercise, and hard bed; until her health was completely restored; I heard from her in August 1819 when she had enjoyed uninterrupted health ever since.

Of the Suppression Mensium, Dysmenorrhoea, Menorrhagia, and Leucorrhoea, I shall not say much, because I could add but very little new on the subject, and in consequence, that which, I wished to make interesting, would become tedious, or insipid, therefore I shall only remark, that in these diseases, there does, from long standing and frequent repetition, a kind of leucophlegmatic habit take place

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not very different from the Chlorotic one, before described; in which I have used the Martial Flowers with signal advantage, and which almost every practitioner must have seen, and been exceedingly disappointed in reestablishing the health of Patients.

In the treatment of these disorders I would more fully wish to add the Flores Martiales to the remedies already employed, but I am almost persuaded, he, who employs our medicines to the exclusion of most other Tonics, in the diseases here spoken of, will not have reason to regret the change, and I have no doubt, when the Particular States of the system, to which it is best adapted, shall be pointed out, it will entirely supersede all other chalybeate preparations, and shall look forward to the day, when experience will advance our medicine to the head of the preparations of Iron, Whether its operation is in any way "Sui generis" or whether it is only effected by the union with the salt, I leave to the determination of those, whose talents and experience can do justice to the

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importance of the Medicine; but from the astonishing good effect I have witnessed; I should incline toward the former opinion.

I shall only add further at this time, that in cases of large Abscesses, such as those of the Knee and Hip joint, and the lumbar abscess, attended with great debility, I believe our medicine is of primary importance, and I suspect that in all cases of abscess, where the Bark and other Tonics are admissible, it is eminently advantageous. In these cases I think the prescription of the Doctors Rosedrops would be particularly applicable, I have known cases of very extensive abscess, where in the latter stages, the Medicine has been exclusively trusted to, with entire, and I believe I might almost say, unprecedented success, soon after the exhibition of the medicine, healthy pus appeared to be formed, the anxious hectic countenance began to assume the smile of health, the apyrexia were much longer, the chills considerably lighter, the cold clammy sweats were changed to a pleasant

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glow on the surface; and in fact the whole system began to appear admirably changed for the better, and the patients in a state of Convalescence soon regained their wonted health.

To reap the full benefit of our medicine it must not be hastily abandoned. In disorders of long standing, and obstinate tendency, we must, in order to reap much advantage, from any medicine, persevere steadily in the use of it a considerable length of time. With that test of its virtues, in the hands of men of Genius and Discrimination, I have no doubt, but in a few years all I have said of it will be realized.

Case

April 7th 1816 I visited Mr. Dr. who about six weeks previous, received a small wound, beside the Patella, no doubt communicating with the joint. the limb was enormously swollen, very painful, great emaciation, loss of strength and appetite, hectic fever, colligative sweats, and defecation appeared.

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to be just approaching. The knee had been enveloped in hot poultices, consisting of cow dung &c. from the beginning, by Mr. B. — a very officious and famed Doctor, who, was his sole attendant and Physician.

The knee was swollen from nature, a small size to two feet and a half in circumference. I first prescribed Bark Tinct. Meb. and Rad. Serp. Virgin: 9th found him no better, ordered Tinct. Mercur. Sennae et Ferri and a laxative to be taken in the evening. 10th Continue Bark and Tincture, let him have 8 drops of Sulph. Acid dilut. three times a day. 12th Continue treatment and let him have an anodyne at bed time. 14th Continue treatment, 16th Continue treatment 18th still apparently sinking, omit Bark & Serp. Virgin: continue Anodyne, Sulph. Acid dilut. and increase the Tinct. Flores. Mart. to 4 tea-spoonful, add 10 grs corrosive sublimate to each dose of the Tincture. 23rd apparently rather better, opened the Abscess, which discharged the large quantity of half a gallon of healthy looking fluid, and after putting a piece of adhesive plaster over the puncture, applied

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a large Blister on the knee. 24th stationary, continue treatment. 26th rather better, continue treatment. 28th Blister still running, evidently better, continue treatment. Heat and Colicquation sweats partly disappear, appetite and strength begin to return 30th Stationary. Blister dried up. continue treatment. May 2^d stationary, continue treatment, 6th stationary, apply another Blister, let him have five teaspoonful of the Tincture daily, with 14 grs. Gmss. Sub. to each dose. 8th Blister dried well, rather better. 13th Evidently better, omit anodyne as he sleeps well, continue treatment. 15th Menstruating fast, good appetite continue treatment. From this time to the 26th June he continued gradually to mend, when with the exception of a stiff joint he was discharged cured.

To my Brother and Preceptor Doctor David Grant I am indebted for much useful information on this subject. (and from whom I could have received the histories of cases sufficient to illustrate every position I have advanced, besides those I have related

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from my own practice, but the narrow bounds of this paper would not admit of their insertion.) With Doctor W. L. Woodruff of New Jersey, I believe the use of this medicine was entirely original; and to his sons Doctor E. & A. Woodruff, likewise of N. J. the credit is certainly due of making considerable improvement in the application of the *Murias Ammoniac et Ferri* to the cure of many very intractable disorders, they first employed it in Bientony, and I believe with unparalleled success. Their mode of administering the medicine is in the form of a saturated Tincture, made with proof spirits, very frequently combined with a Tincture of *Murias Hydrargyri* which I have no doubt would answer many very valuable purposes, but the practice of my brother as well as that of myself, has been to give the saturated Tincture alone, and think it decidedly superior in most cases, the dose of the Tincture is a tea spoonful three or four times a day, but I have in some cases carried it to the extent of seven or

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ight with advantage; it may also be given in the
 form of a Bolus, in doses of from six to ten or twelve
 grains from three to five times a day, but I think
 the Tincture much superior. The Bolus being
 very large makes it difficult to swallow. It is also
 very apt to crumble to pieces, while the Tincture
 if mixed with a little sugar, and the patient
 holds some vinegar in his mouth, previous
 to swallowing it, will scarcely taste the Medi-
 cine.

Might it not also prove useful in
 Phthisis Pulmonalis?